

Senate Concurrent Resolution 9 - Introduced

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9

BY BOLKCOM

1 A Concurrent Resolution urging the United States
2 Congress to modernize the Toxic Substances Control
3 Act of 1976.

4 WHEREAS, children and developing fetuses are
5 uniquely vulnerable to the health threats of toxic
6 chemicals and early-life chemical exposures have been
7 linked to chronic disease later in life; and

8 WHEREAS, a growing body of peer-reviewed scientific
9 evidence links exposure to toxic chemicals to many
10 diseases and health conditions that are rising in
11 incidence, including childhood cancers, prostate
12 cancer, breast cancer, learning and developmental
13 disabilities, infertility, and obesity; and

14 WHEREAS, the President's Cancer Panel report
15 released in May 2010 stated "the true burden of
16 environmentally induced cancers has been grossly
17 underestimated" and advised the President "to use
18 the power of your office to remove the carcinogens
19 and other toxins from our food, water, and air that
20 needlessly increase health care costs, cripple
21 our nation's productivity, and devastate American
22 lives"; and

23 WHEREAS, states bear an undue burden from
24 toxic chemicals, including health care costs and
25 environmental damages, disadvantaging businesses that
26 lack information on chemicals in their supply chain and
27 increasing demands for state regulation; and

28 WHEREAS, when the Toxic Substances Control Act

1 of 1976 (TSCA) was passed, about 62,000 chemicals
2 in commerce were grandfathered in without any
3 required testing for health and safety hazards or any
4 restrictions on usage; and

5 WHEREAS, in the 35 years since the TSCA was passed,
6 the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
7 has required chemical companies to test only about 200
8 of those chemicals for health hazards and has issued
9 partial restrictions on only five chemicals; and

10 WHEREAS, the TSCA has been widely recognized as
11 ineffective and obsolete due to legal and procedural
12 hurdles that prevent the EPA from taking quick and
13 effective regulatory action to protect the public
14 against well-known chemical threats; and

15 WHEREAS, the National Conference of State
16 Legislatures unanimously adopted a resolution on July
17 12, 2009, that articulated principles for TSCA reform
18 and called on Congress to act to update the law; and

19 WHEREAS, the TSCA is the only major federal
20 environmental statute that has never been updated or
21 reauthorized; and

22 WHEREAS, legislation to substantially reform the
23 TSCA was introduced during the 109th Congress in 2005,
24 the 110th Congress in 2008, and again in the 111th
25 Congress in 2010; NOW THEREFORE,

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, THE HOUSE OF
27 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the Iowa General
28 Assembly encourages the 112th Congress to enact
29 federal legislation to modernize the TSCA to strengthen
30 chemicals management through policy reforms; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the policy reforms
2 should require chemical manufacturers to prove
3 that all existing and new chemicals are not harmful
4 to human health, and provide essential health and
5 safety information on chemicals to inform the market,
6 consumers, and general public; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the policy reforms
8 should require immediate action to reduce or
9 eliminate the worst chemicals, including persistent,
10 bioaccumulative, and toxic chemicals and other
11 priority toxics to which there is already widespread
12 exposure; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the policy reforms
14 should preserve the authority of state and tribal
15 governments to operate chemicals management programs
16 that are more protective than the federal programs; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the policy reforms
18 should establish health safety standards for chemicals
19 that rely on the best available science to protect
20 the most vulnerable among us, such as children and
21 developing fetuses; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the policy reforms
23 should reward innovation by fast tracking approval of
24 new, demonstratively safer chemicals, and invest in
25 green chemistry research and workforce development to
26 boost American business and spur jobs making safer
27 alternatives; and

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the policy reforms
29 should promote environmental justice by developing
30 action plans to reduce disproportionate exposure to

S.C.R. 9

1 toxic chemicals in hot spot communities; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the
3 House and the Secretary of the Senate shall forward
4 copies of this resolution to all members of Iowa's
5 Congressional delegation.